

Extension of Remarks
H. Res 498, Recognizing the 85th Anniversary of the Border Patrol

Rep. McCaul: Mr. Speaker, as the lead Republican sponsor of this resolution I would like to thank the gentleman from New Mexico, Congressman Teague, as well as Chairman Reyes for all of their work on putting together this legislation.

The U.S. Border Patrol has been keeping this country safe from threats like terrorists, illicit drugs, weapons, illegal immigrants and criminals for 85 years. I would like to thank the border patrol and I commend them for their service.

In the early 20th century, control of the border was sporadic and piecemeal and included mounted guards, Texas Rangers, and military troops. After the prohibition of alcohol and the immigration reforms of 1921 and 1924, the Labor Appropriations Act of 1924 officially established the U.S. Border Patrol with an initial force of 450 officers to help defend our borders.

Today the Border Patrol uses state of the art technologies to aid in the performance of their duties; infrared cameras, remote video surveillance, unattended underground sensors, and ground radar.

CBP is responsible for guarding nearly 7,000 miles of land border the United States shares with Canada and Mexico and 2,000 miles of coastal waters surrounding the Florida peninsula and off the coast of Southern California. The agency also protects 95,000 miles of maritime border in partnership with the United States Coast Guard.

I would like to praise for their tireless efforts the 52,000 CBP employees including the over 18,000 CBP Border Patrol agents, 1,000 CBP Air and Marine agents, almost 22,000 CBP officers and agriculture specialists and the nation's largest law enforcement canine program.

I would also like to pay particular tribute to the 104 CBP employees who lost their lives in service to their country.

In sum, CBP performs the vital task of securing America's borders 24 hours a day, seven days a week while facilitating legitimate trade and travel. I congratulate them on their 85th anniversary and I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this Resolution.

Rep. Michael T. McCaul (TX-10)